

EDITOR'S MISCELLANY



REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PHILANTHROPIC EDUCATION

(From the Twentieth Annual Report of the Charity Organization Society, New York)

[THE following report is of much interest as showing the steady tendency towards higher education for practical work, and also as pointing out a field of great variety of occupation to nurses who may for one reason or another wish to branch out into work not strictly nursing, yet in which all the nurse's knowledge may come into play. In its impulse and purposes this course is quite similar to our own Hospital Economics course at Columbia. Several nurses have already taken it, and we strongly advise others to do so. This year's six-weeks' course, the notice of which follows, will probably be the last short course.]

The Committee on Philanthropic Education, having conducted for five years the Summer School in Philanthropic Work, feel that the time has come for a more extended course. The Summer School has become a general meeting-place for experienced workers from different cities who share their knowledge with the young men and women just starting out in their life work, who come from different charitable societies in the several States and cities, and from the universities. It has made for itself a distinct place and will be continued; but within the short space of six weeks it cannot give adequate training to those who would engage in charitable work and undertake the task of adjusting unfortunate families more perfectly to their complex environment.

The committee has therefore issued an appeal for one hundred thousand dollars with which to establish a training-school for charitable work, similar in some respects to the schools that prepare for other professions, by which under experienced guides new workers may touch the poor helpfully from the start, and not gain experience by their blunders in trying to help the sick and the needy.

Aside from the necessity to help suffering humanity rightly, there is an important financial aspect to this subject. The New York State Board of Charities has called attention to the fact that the societies and institutions of the State reporting to it expend twenty million dollars annually, and that probably ten million dollars more are expended through the purses of private individuals, churches, etc., not reported, making a total of thirty million dollars in one State. The expenditures in Massachusetts, Ohio, Michigan, and other States are probably nearly as large, while the sum for the whole country has never been estimated. Charity is a vast social engine, and should have competent and trained people to work it. A well-equipped School of Philanthropy has become a necessity.

The appeal of the Committee on Philanthropic Education is strongly endorsed by Hon. Abram S. Hewitt, Mayor Seth Low, Bishop Henry C. Potter, Dr. Daniel C. Gilman, director of the Carnegie Institute at Washington, D. C., and Hon. Joseph S. Choate, Ambassador of the United States to Great Britain. Hitherto this appeal has been sent only to certain persons in New York City known to be interested in philanthropic work, but the appeal is now extended. It is believed that the proposed school of philanthropy offers an opportunity for useful endowment similar to that embraced by Mr. John S. Kennedy in establishing the United Charities Building in New York City.

The following two-years' course has been worked out by the committee, and will be established as soon as means can be secured for the purpose. By resolution of the Central Council of the Charity Organization Society in New York City it will receive funds for the establishment of a Training-School in Philanthropy and use them exclusively for it.

PROPOSED TWO-YEARS' COURSE IN PHILANTHROPIC WORK.

During the first year, three months each to the following:

I.—The Care and Treatment of Needy Families in their Homes.

II.—Child-saving, including the Care of Destitute or Neglected, Delinquent, and Defective Children.

III.—Medical Charities; the Institutional Care of Adults; and Neighborhood Improvement, such as Tenement Reform and Social Settlement Work.

During the second year a special study of some branch of philanthropic work, with a view to entering it as a life work, as Charity Organization, Relief Work, Placing-out of Children, Church Work, Care of the Feeble-minded, Care for Prisoners.

The purpose of the course is to ground the student in the teachings of experience and in the principles of helpfulness in order that he may be ready with keen sympathy and uncrystallized mind to deal with every case of need.

First Term:

FIRST YEAR.

The Care and Treatment of Needy Families in Their Homes (three months):

1. Study of investigation, including a complete, careful investigation by each student of twenty-five selected families, under the direction of persons who are experienced in the kind and thorough treatment of distress.
2. An analysis of the standard of living among the poor, and the distribution of family income.
3. Employment for the poor and industrial training.
4. The uses and limitations of material relief.
 - (a) An analysis of relief found necessary in the families investigated.
 - (b) The kinds, sources, and results of relief, such as relief in material, relief in cash, private and public outdoor relief, transportation, unusual forms of relief.
 - (c) History of public outdoor relief, English, French, German, American.
5. Personal service in elevating the poor.
6. The inculcation of right habits of life in the family.
7. Care of the sick poor in their homes; when to remove patients; adequate care under conditions of protracted illness or contagion.
8. Registration, similar to work done in investigation.
9. Coöperation of charitable societies and institutions.

Second Term:

The Care of Destitute or Neglected, Delinquent, and Defective Children (three months):

1. Uses of the probation system.
2. When children should be separated from parents or guardians.
3. Temporary care in institutions or family homes.
4. Placing-out in private homes.
 - (a) Selection of the home.
 - (b) Selection of the child.
 - (c) Supervision in the home.
5. Institutions.
 - (a) Scope and influence.
 - (b) Organization and management.
 - (c) Duration for normal and abnormal children.

6. The care and education of delinquent children.
7. The care and education of defective children,—the feeble-minded, the blind, the deaf and dumb, the epileptic, the crippled.

Third Term:

The Nature and Extent of Medical Charities (two weeks) :

1. Public and private effort in medical charity.
2. The prevention of contagion in crowded neighborhoods.
3. The warfare against consumption.

The Institutional Care of Adults (four weeks) :

1. The development of the almshouse.
2. Custodial care of the feeble-minded and insane.
3. The means of effective reform in the lives of prisoners.
4. The financial management and accounts of charitable agencies and institutions.

Neighborhood Improvement (two weeks) :

- (a) Through private agencies: the social settlements.
 - (b) Through public agencies: tenement reform, public baths, playgrounds.
- Immigration.

Legislation as a Means of Improving the Condition of the Poor.

Supervision of Institutions by Public and Private Agencies.

Means of Educating Public Sentiment upon Problems in Philanthropic Work.

Throughout the year the work will be practical rather than theoretical, keeping in close touch with families needing assistance. Students will be assigned to work in the district offices of the Charity Organization Society and other organizations.

Residence for at least three months of the year in one of the Social Settlements is recommended.

SECOND YEAR.

I.—The Choice of Special Field of Study, with a View to Entering it as a Life Work. The following are suggested:

Relief work.

Charity organization.

Child-saving.

Institution work.

Settlement work.

Church work.

The well-being of the poor of a particular nationality, as Italians, Russians, etc.

Care for the feeble-minded and insane.

Care for prisoners.

II.—Residence for Purposes of Study and Practical Experience in Two Cities During a Portion of the Year.

III.—The Preparation of a Thesis for Publication.

At the discretion of the committee in charge, persons may be admitted to second-year standing who have taken the short course in the Summer School in philanthropic work, and (1) have had the advantage of university training, including courses in philanthropy under one of the following teachers (or its equivalent) :

Professor Francis G. Peabody, Harvard University;

Professor Franklin H. Giddings, Columbia University;

Professor Samuel M. Lindsay, University of Pennsylvania;

Professor Frank A. Fetter, Cornell University;
Professor Charles R. Henderson, University of Chicago;
Professor Thomas M. Cooley, University of Michigan;
Professor Richard T. Ely, University of Wisconsin;
Professor Samuel G. Smith, University of Minnesota;
Professor Mary Roberts Smith, Leland Stanford University;
Dr. Jeffrey R. Brackett, Johns Hopkins University,
or (2) persons whose experience in charitable work has fitted them for it.
The course will not lead to a degree, but a certificate of work accomplished will be given when desired.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SUMMER SCHOOL OF 1903.

(From the middle of June to the end of July, six weeks.)

The sixth session of the Summer School, 1903, will convene about June 15. The general course will not differ materially from that of 1902, reported above. A number of the same experienced workers, from various cities, will take part, new members in the instructing force being added from time to time. The plan of the school is informal, omitting as far as possible technical details. It thus becomes a conference of workers, students, and others for the earnest discussion of the important problems to be faced.

The requirements for admission are as follows:

(1) A degree from a university or college, or one year of actual service in philanthropic work. [The nurse's course of training is taken as an equivalent. —Ed.]

(2) Reading of the following books:

Warner, "American Charities."

Devine, "The Practice of Charity."

The latest "Report of the New York Charity Organization Society."

A knowledge of the contents of these three volumes is necessary to a full understanding of the course. The time of the school is not consumed by repeating the facts and definitions given in them.

Other reading suggested, but not required:

Loch, "Charity Organization."

Richmond, "Friendly Visiting Among the Poor."

Riis, "How the Other Half Lives."

Woods, "City Wilderness."

Reports of the Boston Associated Charities, Philadelphia Society for Organizing Charity, New York State Charities Aid Association, New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, Boston and New York Children's Aid Societies.

(3) A visit to the local almshouse in the community from which the student comes, with a view of presenting a report upon it at an early session of the school. A visit to the local jail is recommended.

A registration fee of ten dollars is received, which may be remitted in certain instances by scholarships which yield this sum. A member of the committee has given each year several scholarships yielding seventy-five dollars each, thus enabling some to attend who could not otherwise do so. Three other scholarships were provided last year by residents of the cities from which the students came.

The cost of board in New York varies from six dollars per week upward. About one-half of the members of the school each year find residence during the course in the Social Settlements. Others find pleasant quarters in the dormitories of Columbia University.

PHILIP W. AYRES, Director.